541 The favorite sport occasions among the
517 farmers are horse races, at which the horses are not ridden but are harnessed before small light carriages. Finnish represent a fairly small and gracefully built variety which is
363 especially good for long distance running. However, for practical use, even in the country horses are being replaced by cars and trucks, and in the cities they are becoming a curiosity, the bicycle is now as indispensable in summer time as skiis are during the winter.

517 In addition to sports, music is a popular form
533 of recreation, in rural areas as well as in cities. Almost every village has a choir, and in summer singers from every part of the country gather for large music festivals.

517 Theater is also very popular among the Finns.
545 Professional theaters exist in all the cities and

532 sculpturers the best known is Väinö Aaltonen, who has done noticeable pioneer work in using granite for his statuary. His works have been represented in several international exhibitions, the most famous, perhaps, being the statue of the great runner Paavo Nurmi, in which movement has been captured in stone.

533 Music. The collections of Finnish folk music, like those of folklore in general, are remarkably extensive and well-studied. The most archaic examples are the stereotypic melodies employed in the singing of epic runes. Later times have contributed a multitude of song and ballad melodies, usually in the minor key and reflecting the sentiments of the singer. Even dance and journey songs, although gay in rhythm, are

533 generally cast in the minor key. There exists also a treasury of religious folk music, so that the greatest part of the Finnish hymnal is composed of native material.

534 The instrumental folk music is noteworthy, too. The national instrument of the Finns is the kantele, which is reminiscent of a zither or a small harp, and is placed on one's knees while playing. Lately there has been a kind of renaissance of kantele-playing but among the people this instrument fairly early was replaced by the violin which is used for playing dance music at weddings and other gatherings. There still exist performers of folk music, and various localities have their own dance melodies.

533 The Finnish folk music is interesting and original and deserves wider recognition. In a

533 way it has its best spokesman in Jean Sibelius, who, although he never has introduced any borrowed material into his compositions, in his themes often comes surprisingly near to folk music. During the last hundred years Finland has produced a number of outstanding composers, but they are all over-shadowed by the almost legendary figure of Sibelius, who has dominated Finnish music for the last sixty years.

The Finns are, as a rule, considered an especially musical people. This is true especially of the Karelians, who are renowned for their beautiful singing voices and musical ability. But the general level of musical taste leaves much to be desired. The interest in classical music is mostly limited to the educated classes; folk songs are known by all but are

533 considered "out of fashion." Jazz music is not popular in Finland except among a few university and high school students, while the common people favor a kind of "hillbilly music." However, the Finns are extremely interested in choir singing, and thus become acquainted with better vocal music.

536 545 Dramatic Arts. The interest shown by the Finns in dramatic art, if one considers the number of theaters and acting companies in proportion to the size of the population, may be adjudged very great. Actors and authors also often give public readings of poetry and prose pieces, and, as a rule, these occasions 546 are well attended. The products of the Finnish film industry are almost entirely limited to

796 Divine Services are held every Sunday morning, and in the cities in the evening also. The sermon, of course, comprises the central part of the service, but the liturgy is rich, and on special holidays the officiating minister or ministers wear decorative cassocks over their or-
[533] dinary black cloaks. Great importance is placed on singing, and the hymnal contains many examples of Finnish religious folk music. A divine service, especially in the mediaeval stone or brick churches, is an impressive occasion.
346 There are altogether about seventy of these old churches descending from Catholic times and located in the southern and central parts of the country. They are interesting and beautiful pieces of native architecture, decorated with wooden sculpture and colorful wall paintings. The most impressive of them all is the great

unwise policies which specifically promote the interests of the farmers. In the realm of foreign politics, however, there are few differences of opinion. Most of the Finns feel that the decisions made by the government at various times have been the only possible decisions. Lately there has been some indication of a rising opposition to the narrow and selfish programs of the political parties and an emphasis on the importance of a more idealistic attitude for the future of the whole country. There is no doubt that patriotic feelings are still strong among the Finnish people.

The national movement in the nineteenth century gave rise to fine patriotic poetry and music. The national anthem of Finland, Maamme 'Our Land,' first sung in the students' May festival in 1848, appeared as the opening

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poem in Runeberg's collection, The Tales of the Ensign Stal. For a national anthem it is a very modest one, although full of praise of the beauty of the Finnish landscape and hopes of a brighter future for the country and its people. Another inspiring song from the same collection is Porilaisten marssi 'The March of the Pori Regiment,' set to the music of a fine military march born at the time of the Finnish-Russian war of 1808-09, and at present the march of honor for the whole Finnish Army. These songs were forbidden during the Russian oppression at the beginning of this century, and the same fate befell Sibelius' tone poem, spontaneously named Finlandia by the people, who immediately understood its message and its potential influence. There exists a multitude of popular patriotic songs and marches, some of them originating

186 as long ago as the Thirty Years' War period.
533 Patriotic festivals and military parades are very serious occasions for the Finns, and the whole audience often spontaneously joins in the national anthem; however, at moments of special danger or severity, such as the time of the outbreak of the Winter War and the negotiations preceding it, Our Land was, by silent agreement, substituted by Luther's battle hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God, which has special significance for the Finns.

186 The Finnish colors, blue and white, originated as the emblem of the national Finnish party during the last century, and after Finland became independent they were established as the colors of the Finnish flag: a blue cross on a white field (all the Northern countries have cross flags).